

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(ECONOMIC SECURITY)

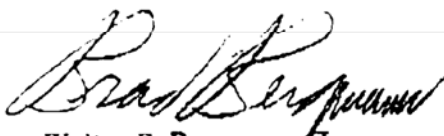
January 5, 1996

Memo for Jim Bair
Ken Oscar
Dan Porter
Tom Ridgway

Subject: Use of Canceled Standardization Documents

With large numbers of military and federal specifications and standards being canceled, there have been many questions on the use of canceled documents in existing and future contracts. In an attempt to provide some useful information, I intend to put the attached in the next *Standardization Newsletter*, and thus on our Homepage.

If these answers are inconsistent with guidance that you have published, or contemplate putting out, please let Andy Certo know ASAP.



Walter B. Bergmann II
Director
Acquisition Practices

Attachment

What am I supposed to do about canceled standardization documents which are cited in current contracts?

- For existing contracts, cited specifications and standards remain in effect, whether canceled or not, unless there is a contract change. However, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology [USD(A&T)] is encouraging defense contractors to seek changes to extant contracts to modify, or remove, non-value added procedural requirements imposed by military or federal specifications and standards. Furthermore, the USD(A&T)'s December 8, 1995, "Single Process Initiative" memo encourages contracting officers and program managers to rapidly evaluate such proposals and, wherever practicable, to approve them on a no-cost, block change basis.

MIL-STD-XXX was canceled without replacement. How do I find out which non-government standard to cite in lieu of MIL-STD-XXX?

- The impetus behind the cancellation of many military standards is the Secretary of Defense's mandate to change the way we do business. It is now DoD policy that, wherever possible, requirements will be stated in terms of performance, and the contractor will be allowed to use any processes which yield a satisfactory product. In those instances where a military standard has been canceled without replacement, it is because the Defense Standards Improvement Council concluded that it is an inappropriate topic for a contractually-binding relationship between the Government and its contractors. Thus, no non-government standard was adopted as a replacement, and no substitute statement of the requirement (such as a locally prepared 'report,' statement of work language, a contract clause, or language in the system specification) should be included in the solicitation or contract.

I'm working on an upcoming ACAT [or AIS] program solicitation and discover that a document which is essential to this acquisition has been canceled. What can I do?

- The objective of ongoing "cancellations without replacement" is to eliminate military specifications no longer needed for procurement actions and those military standards which are antithetical to Dr. Perry's mandate. Nevertheless, during this period of accelerated document review and disposition, it's possible that standardization documents may be canceled though still needed for new designs or procurements.

DRAFT

- While the intent is to not use canceled documents, DoD policy does not prohibit their use. In certain circumstances, use of a canceled document may be the sole technically-sound course of action.
- The procedures published by the Standards Improvement Executives (SIEs) to implement Policy Memo 95-1 can be used to obtain approval to cite canceled specifications and standards in Acquisition Category Programs I-IV and designated Automated Information System Program solicitations.
- The Departmental Standardization Offices (DepSOs) will track waivers granted for canceled documents. If a canceled document is repetitively waived for use, the cognizant SIE will consider permanent reinstatement of the document.

Can Technical Data Packages (TDPs) which cite canceled standardization documents be used to support repro procurements?

- DoD policy is that all acquisitions, including repro procurements, be performance-based to the greatest extent possible. Nevertheless, the Council recognizes that today most TDPs contain detailed specifications, as well as, canceled specifications and standards.
- If your Component SIE has established a requirement that TDPs must be "scrubbed" prior to use in a repro curement, then a waiver must be obtained to cite a canceled standardization document. In any case, verifying the validity and currency of all specifications and standards cited in a TDP prior to its use is the preferable course of action.
- Where workload does not permit "scrubbing" each TDP prior to a repro curement action, buying activities should develop and use solicitation and contract clauses that would encourage bidders and the winning contractor to propose alternatives to any requirements imposed by canceled documents cited in TDPs.